



Family of Hoosier Soldier Killed in Iraq Attends Signing of Fallen Heroes Bill

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By [Karen Hense](#)
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Monday was an emotional day and a step forward for the family of Sgt. Rickey Jones. He was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. As the family and others were being harassed by protestors, Indiana Congressman Steve Buyer stepped in with a new law.

This Memorial Day the family and Patriot Guard Riders stood with the President in the Oval Office as he signed the new law



Tenia Rogers

Tenia Rogers wore a yellow ribbon and a picture of her son, Sgt. Rickey Jones, as she headed into the White House. Rickey's younger brother Michael wore a replica of his military dog tags.

"He was all about his soldiers, those who served with and under him and he would have thought this bill was the greatest thing anyone could have done," Tenia said.

"It's sad it had to happen, but he's in heaven jumping for joy because we're here," Michael said.



Michael Jones

The new law began when Congressman Buyer, a Gulf War veteran, learned the Kokomo family was being harassed by protestors.

"When I came back from the Gulf War I stood on a cemetery hill in Lafayette, Indiana, with all my comrades and I in uniform. I look back at that funeral and I couldn't imagine someone disrupting that funeral," he said.

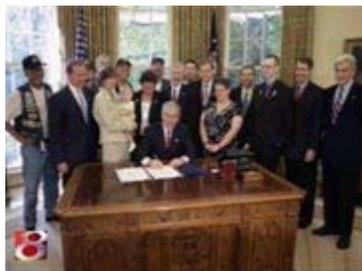
As an Indiana mother, Tenia says she is just now beginning to understand. At the White House there is a deeper meaning behind her son's death. As an American she says she represents all military families.



Congressman Steve Buyer

"I'm not only representing my son and the families who have already been through this but also families who have yet to go through what I am going through," Tenia said.

Congressman Buyer also invited the Patriot Guard Riders, the motorcycle group that shields the families from the protestors. Three of the six in the Oval Office during the signing also rode in the Indianapolis 500 parade with Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels.



"I was motivated to have this bill done by Memorial Day because I could not stand the sight of having protestors on such sacred ground as Arlington National Cemetery," Congressman Buyer said.

Buyer, the family and the Patriot Guard Riders then joined the President at Arlington National for the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

For one family, closure now begins.

"Thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. My family

and friends and for the people who this will touch. Thank you so much," Tania said.

The new law prohibits protestors from demonstrating within 300 feet one hour before and after a military funeral at a national cemetery.



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